

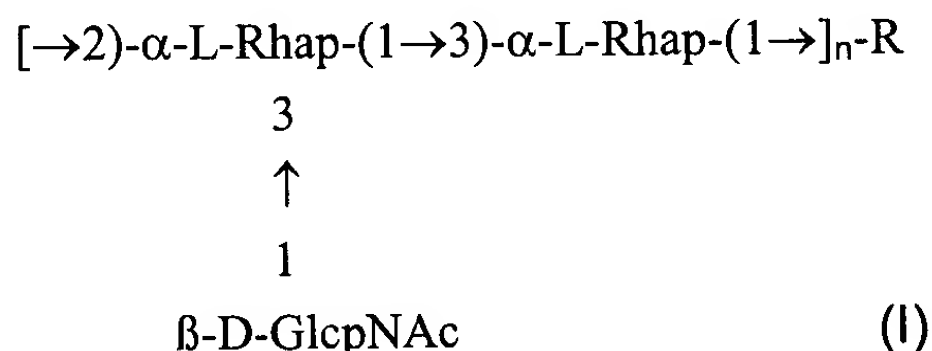
**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-79. (cancelled)

80. (currently amended) A method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide in a mammal comprising administering to ~~[[a]]the~~ mammal a polysaccharide-protein conjugate or polysaccharide-protein fragment conjugate comprising a polysaccharide component and a protein or protein fragment component, wherein the polysaccharide component of said conjugate is of formula (I)



wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from 3 to 50, and wherein said polysaccharide component is covalently bound to the protein component or the protein fragment component of said conjugate.

81. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 80, wherein the mammal is a human.

82. (cancelled)

83. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 80, wherein n is 3 to 30.

84. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the polysaccharide component has a molecular weight of about 10 kilodaltons.

85. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the protein component is bound to the polysaccharide component through a secondary amine bond.

86. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 85, wherein the protein component is any native or recombinant bacterial protein.

87. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 86, wherein the protein component is selected from the group consisting of tetanus toxoid, cholera toxin, diphtheria toxoid, and CRM<sub>197</sub>.

88. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 87, wherein the protein component is tetanus toxoid.

89. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugate is administered with a carrier selected from the group consisting of saline, Ringer's solution and phosphate buffered saline.

90. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugate is administered with an adjuvant.

91. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 90, wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, monophosphoryl lipid A, QS21 and stearyl tyrosine.

92. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the human is a child.

93. (currently amended) The method of eliciting ~~protective~~ bactericidal antibodies specific to group A streptococcal polysaccharide according to claim 81, wherein the conjugate is administered in a dosage amount of about 0.1  $\mu\text{g}$  to about 10  $\mu\text{g}$  per kilogram of body weight.